

TOP SECRETTHE WHITE HOUSE
WashingtonC O P Y

August 24, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES S. LAY, JR.

1. The attached draft was prepared as groundwork for a Presidential speech in the event the communists break off the negotiations for an armistice in Korea. The introduction (page one) should be considered simply as illustrative; it would obviously have to be written to fit the immediate circumstances if the event occurs. The rest of the draft, however, should be reviewed carefully, and work should go forward to improve it.

2. I believe the best procedure at this point would be to ask the appropriate agencies to review the substance of the draft, primarily from the standpoint of whether it covers the right ground and makes the right points. Not much attention should be paid as yet to editorial matters such as phrasing and sentence structure.

3. My own feeling is that the draft leaves uncovered three important areas. If the communists break off negotiations and renew the attack, they would presumably be making a much more serious decision than the ones they made last summer and fall -- then they may have expected quick success, now they can have no illusions as to our commitment. If this is true, then the President's speech, in addition to the ground covered in this draft, should undoubtedly discuss, to some degree at least, (1) the increase in our own defense preparations that will be called for, (2) the major diplomatic measures that will be taken -- for example, a direct diplomatic approach to Moscow, and (3) the steps we will take in the United Nations -- for example, proposing to "outlaw" the Chinese communist government. These matters are, of course, not discussed in the guidance paper prepared by State a couple of weeks ago, which was limited almost entirely to possible patterns of action in the Korean area.

/s/ DEB

NSC review(s) completed.

DAVID S. BELL

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☐ It contains nothing of CIA interest
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Attachment - (unclassified)

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